

E1 Claim 1 (Amended) An ointment consisting essentially of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

Claim 2 (Twice Amended) The ointment of claim 1, wherein the base is hydrocarbon gel or petrolatum.

Claim 8 (Amended) The ointment of claim 1, wherein the base is petrolatum.

E2 Claim 9 (Amended) The ointment of claim 8, wherein the vaseline is selected from the group consisting of white petrolatum and yellow petrolatum.

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E3 Claim 14 (Amended) An ointment consisting of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

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cont
Claim 15 (Unamended) An anhydrous ointment consisting essentially of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

2 Please add the following new claims: *2*

--16. The ointment of claim 14, wherein the ointment is an anhydrous ointment.

24
17. The ointment of claim 1, which consists essentially of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for destroying the stability of said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

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18. The ointment of claim 14, consisting of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for destroying the stability of said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

21
19. The ointment of claim 15, consisting essentially of acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for destroying the stability of said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving said acetylsalicylic acid.

20. An ointment comprising acetylsalicylic acid and a base selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbon gel, petrolatum and a mixture thereof without any other additive for affecting the stability of said acetylsalicylic acid and wherein the ointment does not contain water for dissolving or hydrolyzing said acetylsalicylic acid.--